SHADOW RAIDERS I

Episode 21
'Embers Of The Past'

ENGLISH DIALOGUE SCRIPT

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

The planets of the cluster hang in the darkness of star-dappled space. One quadrant of the sky is smudged with white, a distant CLOUD NEBULA.

Suddenly, a BEAST SHIP swoops through frame, a BLADE WING hot on its tail.

INT. GRAVEHEART'S BLADE WING

GRAVEHEART
(1) On a path to intercept.

EXT. SPACE

Graveheart's Blade Wing matches trajectory with the Beast Ship and blows it away.

A moment later, a second Blade Wing, piloted by JADE, rises through frame, pursued by a half-dozen drone ships.

PYRUS (VO)
(2) Jade, you've got six on your six.

JADE
(3) Tell me something I don't know.

Now three more ships join the aerial battle; it's PYRUS and two helmeted FIRE SOLDIERS, each piloting a Planet Fire fighter ship, that come in to take on the drones ships pursuing Jade. They blow away four of the pursuing ships.

PYRUS (FILTERED)
(4) I'll have my men come in and give you a hand.

JADE
(5) Just have them stay in position. If they hadn't broken ranks É

With most of her pursuers gone, Jade arcs her Bladewing suddenly and comes up between the two remaining drone ships, blowing them away.

JADE (CONT'D)
(6) ....I wouldn't be in this mess.

INT. PYRUS’ SHIP

Take on Pyrus offended by Jade’s comment.

And the battle continues.

INT. AURORA

Cryos' ship is buffeted by blasts from the battle outside. CRYOS and TEKLA man the controls, VOXX hovers nearby.

TEKLA
(7) We have Beast Drones all around us.

CRYOS
(8) Graveheart and the others seem to have them contained.

Ship is rocked by an explosion.

CRYOS
(9) Which is more than I can say for ourselves.

TEKLA
(10) They are trying to stop us from entering into the Nebula.

CRYOS
(11) Yes. Once inside the Nebula, the Beast Armada’s sensors will be useless.

TEKLA
(12) It is our only chance of escape.

EXT. SPACE

Graveheart's Blade Wing is close behind a Beast Ship that was attacking the Aurora and destroys it.

Graveheart turns his ship to see that the skies are clear for the moment; all Drone ships are gone. A moment later, Jade, Pyrus, and the other ships fall into formation behind him.

GRAVEHEART
(13) Looks like that was the last of them... for now. Let’s head back to base.

EXT. BATTLE MOON - TO ESTABLISH

INT. HANGER

Pyrus, Jade and Graveheart’s ships have landed and they are exiting. Pyrus runs over to talk with Jade who is walking away from him.

PYRUS
(calling out))
(14) Hey Jade, Wait up.

Jade doesn't stop. She is definitely tired.

PYRUS
(nervous and struggling)
(15)Uh, look I wanted to ask you, during the fight, why did you say, I mean, what did you meanÉ

JADE
(interrupting)
(16) Spit it out boy.

PYRUS
(little angry)
(17) Why were you picking on my men. They’re all good fightersÉ The best!

JADE
(18) Not today, they were sloppy and almost cost us our lives.

Pyrus stops walking and puts his hands on his hips.

PYRUS
(19) My men are just as good and just as important as anyone else in this Alliance Jade.

Jade sees she’s upset him and tries to comfort him with kind words.

JADE
(20) Look, maybe if they spent a little time training with my Quarriors.

PYRUS
(angered)
(21) And do what!?! Shine your boots? Polish your guns?

Pyrus storms off and Graveheart, who caught the last of the argument, gives her a stern look. Jade’s confused.

JADE
(22) What did I say?

EXT. BATTLE MOON _ PYRUS' PALACE

INT. PYRUS' PALACE

Pyrus stands lost in thought staring into the flaming soil of his lost world. Graveheart enters. Pyrus starts to speak without looking up.

PYRUS
(23) I know, I know, she didn't mean it the way it sounded.

GRAVEHEART
(24) Well, you know Jade.

PYRUS
(25) Yeah, I do.

He digs into the flame and holds up the soil. He's deep in thought as he contemplates it.

PYRUS (CONT'D)
(26) You know, Graveheart this soil's all I have left of my homeworld.

GRAVEHEART
(27) That's not true. So long as you and your people survive, so does your world.

Pyrus turns to Graveheart.

PYRUS
(28) But how? By living on Rock's Battle-Moons and becoming second-class Quarriors?

Pyrus turns back and looks at the soil.

PYRUS
(29) Not much of a life. The Vizier would never have stood for it.

Pyrus puts the soil down. A holographic image of the Vizier appears in the fire.

PYRUS
(30) He was always worried about our people. You know how much he hated this Alliance.

GRAVEHEART

(31) He often made that clear.

Upset, Pyrus turns to look Graveheart in the eye.

PYRUS
(32) Sometimes I miss him more than I miss my own father. Funny, huh?

GRAVEHEART
(33) No, Pyrus, The Vizier was a proud and honest man. I miss him too.

They both turn and look at the image of the Vizier.

INT. PLANET ICE - MONITOR ROOM

As Jade checks scanners, Cryos and Tekla work quietly nearby. Suddenly, they are interrupted by the booming voice of LORD MANTEL from the communications screen.

LORD MANTEL (FILTERED)
(34) Where is the Exile?

Jade leaps to attention at her ruler's voice.

JADE
(35) Lord Mantel!

CRYOS
(coldly)
(36) Graveheart is not here. Perhaps I can help you?

LORD MANTEL
(37) You can tell me if you've all gone mad. Taking us into a Cloud Nebula? We will be flying blind.

TEKLA
(38) Lord Mantel, I have used technology from my world to modify the security grids of the Alliance.

CRYOS
(39) We should be able to find our way through the Nebula. The Beast Armada will not be able to follow.

LORD MANTEL
(40) You forget, Cryos, I know you. I do not underestimate your treachery.

CRYOS

(41) Then you underestimate my common sense. With the Beast Armada so close behind us, do you think I have time to waste plotting against you?

Mantel doesn't answer directly.

LORD MANTEL
(42) Can you guarantee these sensor modifications will work?

CRYOS
(43) I can guarantee that without them, time is running out...for all of us.

EXT. SPACE - ABOVE PLANET ICE - LATER

The Aurora takes the point above the Planet Cluster.

INT. AURORA

Graveheart, Jade, Cryos and Pyrus on board.

GRAVEHEART
(44) Are we ready?

CRYOS
(45) On course for the Nebula.

Graveheart turns to a Comm Screen, where Tekla is communicating from a World Engine room.

TEKLA
(on view screen)
(46) All planets at full power and ready to proceed.

GRAVEHEART
(47) Then let’s get --

He is interrupted, by a persistent BEEPING.

JADE
(48) We’ve got incoming. One object.

ON JADE, GRAVEHEART, CRYOS - their expressions grim.

CRYOS
(49) Put it onscreen.

ON THE VIEWSCREEN

An enormous dark shape looms.

CRYOS
(50) It appears to be a planet.

GRAVEHEART
(51) The Beast Planet?

Cryos works his console.

CRYOS
(52) No, its movements are too erratic. Whatever is propelling that world, is not functioning very well.

Cryos flips a control and the view on his console of the approaching world is magnified. Pyrus pushes in to get a closer look.

PYRUS
(53A) It cant be?

GRAVEHEART
(53) Then what world is it?

ON THE VIEWSCREEN

To see the blackened husk of a planet.

PYRUS
(54) Planet Fire!?

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. PLANET ICE - CONFERENCE ROOM

Graveheart, Jade, Cryos, Tekla, FEMUR, and Pyrus are gathered, with Lord Mantel on a viewscreen. A hologram of the returned planet Fire floats in the center of the table.

CRYOS
(55) Our preliminary sensor scan indicates that this might truly be Planet Fire.

GRAVEHEART
(56) Let’s check it out.

LORD MANTEL (FILTERED)
(57) Agreed. The sooner we prove this is Planet Fire, the sooner I get its people off my world and back on they're own.

TEKLA
(58) We need to organize a search party. I will gather the proper equipment so that we can truly determineÉ.

As Tekla speaks Femur starts to make a soft Òtick tockÓ noise that gets louder. Until finally she stops and everyone is staring at him.

FEMUR
(59) Sorry guys, no can do. We've got a ticking clock here. Or am I the only one who remembers that there's a Beast Planet breathing down our necks?

CRYOS
(60) Once again I am put in the unfortunate position of agreeing with Femur. We can not afford to delay our escape into the Nebula.

GRAVEHEART
(61) Probably not. Still, I don't feel right just turning our back on our own.

TEKLA
(62) If that is Planet Fire, it is dead. It is barely emitting a heat signature.

PYRUS
(66) But can my people still live there? Can they go home?

All eyes turn to look at him.

PYRUS
(64) This is my Planet your talking about. How about asking me how I feel?

Cryos looks a little chagrined.

CRYOS
(65) Forgive us, Pyrus. You are quite right.

PYRUS

(68) My people have already lost their home once. Before I take it from them again, I have to see the truth for myself.

CRYOS
(69) If we turn around to go back to Fire, we risk being caught by the Beast Armada.

PYRUS
(70) Look Cryos, my people sacrificed their home to save your worlds from the Beast Planet. I don't think I'm asking too much?

Graveheart considers, then --

GRAVEHEART
(71) Pyrus is right. If his planet somehow survived the Beast we have to check it out.

Favoring Pyrus, as he stares at the image of Planet Fire.

WIPE TO:

EXT. PLANET FIRE - LATER

Pyrus & GH in a Bladewing swoops down toward the planet.

The ship lands on the surface, and Pyrus and Graveheart step out, weapons at the ready.

Pyrus and Graveheart move cautiously through the ruins of the city we saw in ep. #7, the once-majestic domes now cracked and blackened. The lava surface has cooled unevenly, big chunks of rock sticking up at different angles.

PYRUS
(72) It looks almost the same as I remember. But there's something...missing.

Pyrus hangs his head. A RUMBLING interrupts them. The ground shifts alarmingly.

PYRUS
(75) We'd better keep moving.

GRAVEHEART
(76) Let's get to the Telepod. I want to check out the World Engines.

CUT TO:

INT. PLANET FIRE - WORLD ENGINE CHAMBER

Dimly lit, but operational. The glow of the TELEPOD, and Graveheart and Pyrus appear. They step off the Telepod and look around.

PYRUS
(77) Graveheart, is this whereÉ.

GRAVEHEART
(78) Yes. This is where we left the Vizier.

They both continue to look around.

VIZIER (OS)
(80) Do not bury me so quickly rockhound.

INT. PLANET FIRE -WORLD ENGINE CHAMBER -NEW ANGLE

The GRAND VIZIER, leaning heavily on his stick, limps toward them. The Old Vizier is weak, his flaming head dimmed and crackling like a dying fire.

PYRUS
(81) Vizier! You're alive!

Pyrus runs to his old friend, hugs him tight. The Vizier coughs heavily, unsteady on his feet.

VIZIER
(coughing)
(82) But not for much longer, my Prince, if you continue to crush me like this.

Pyrus quickly lets go, almost embarrassed by his childish outburst.

PYRUS
(84) How did you escape? How did you find us?

VIZIER
(85) Our world is strong. Too strong for even the Beast.

GRAVEHEART
(86) That may be true, but it doesn't explain how you survived.

VIZIER
(87) At the last moment, when our world crashed into that infernal Beast Planet, the World Engines came to life.

On a flickering hologram we can replay that fateful moment.

VIZIER
(88) With the engines pushed to their limit, I followed your energy trail. I found you, and not a moment too soon. Our planet is, once again, dying.

PYRUS
(89) Then there's no hope.

VIZIER
(90) No! It can be repaired. It must be!

Pyrus and Graveheart exchange a look. How can they let the old guy down easy?

GRAVEHEART
(91) Have you been up to the surface? It's not stable.

VIZIER
(92) It is not your place, offworlder, to concern yourself with the safety of the citizens of Fire.

PYRUS
(93) But it is mine Vizier.

PYRUS
(gently)
(95) Our people haveÉ settled in. They have a new home, beside the people of Rock.

GRAVEHEART
(96) We'll take you there, get you medical help...

VIZIER
(97) No! This is the only home for the people of Fire. They should be here.

The Vizier COUGHS dramatically, seeming to visibly weaken.

VIZIER

(98) I was foolish to let our people abandon our world once, I will not do so again.

The Vizier hangs his head in sadness, Pyrus is torn.

EXT. PLANET ICE

INT. PLANET ICE _ ASTROPHYSICS LAB - LATER

Graveheart and Cryos converse.

CRYOS
(99) You could not convince the Vizier to come with you?

GRAVEHEART
(100) He said he'd die if he left his world.

CRYOS
(101) Very symbolic but not truly practical.

GRAVEHEART
(102) At least I got his comm system working.
(beat)
(103) I just hope we can do the same for the rest of the planet.
(beat)
(106) I brought back some soil for Tekla to analyze. Perhaps there’s some way to rekindle Fire’s core.

CRYOS
(104) We cannot concern ourselves with that now.

Cryos uses a hologram to show that the Beast Armada is right on their tail.

CRYOS
(105) The Beast Armada is closing in. Any more delays and they will be upon us.

CRYOS
(107) How is Pyrus handling this?

GRAVEHEART
(108) All right, I guess. I think he needs some time alone, to think things through.

INT. PLANET ICE - CONFERENCE ROOM

Pyrus, acting very regal, faces Lord Mantel on a viewscreen.

PYRUS
(110) You called, Lord Mantel?

LORD MANTEL (FILTERED)
(111) I have been speaking with your Vizier. He makes much sense for an old man.

PYRUS
(112) He's always been my most trusted advisor.

LORD MANTEL (FILTERED)
(113) Then you'll be happy to know that he and I have reached an agreement.

PYRUS
(confused)
(114) About what?

LORD MANTEL (FILTERED)
(115) I have offered to put my entire fleet at his disposal immediately, to carry your people back to their native crust.

PYRUS
(116) But we're not ready --

LORD MANTEL (FILTERED)
(117) Of course you are. Once your people learned their world has returned, nothing could keep them away.

PYRUS
(starting to get angry)
(118) But they don't know -- You didn’t....

LORD MANTEL (FILTERED)
(overriding)
(119) Today, the People of Fire will return to Fire -- permanently!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SHOT SPACE

We watch as the Beast Armada head toward and past camera. We turn and watch as they fly past and we see that they are heading towards the alliance planets in the distance.

EXT. PLANET FIRE

INT. PLANET FIRE- WORLD ENGINE ROOM

Pyrus is alone with the Vizier.

PYRUS
(120) Why Vizier? Why did you make this deal with Mantel?

VIZIER
(121) There is no deal. I am just returning our people to their rightful place.

PYRUS
(122) But they have a placeÉ on the Battle Moons.

VIZIER
(123) They no longer need it. Their world, their homeÉ It has returned.

PYRUS
(124) I'm not sure it can support the life we once had.

VIZIER
(125) It will because we say it will. It is the way of Fire.

Pyrus offers up a tired smile and puts his hand on the Vizier's shoulder.

PYRUS
(126) You don't know how much I missed that.

Pyrus goes to step on the Telepod.

PYRUS
(127) I'm going to the surface and see if we can make this work.

Pyrus leaves. Take a beat and then the commlink buzzes. Its Graveheart on the other end.

GRAVEHEART
(128) Vizier. I need to speak to Pyrus.

VIZIER
(129) Well, he's not here Rockhound. I have no idea where he is.

(130) But I was told he was on Planet Fire.

VIZIER
(131) Then you were told wrong. Now go away. I have much to do.

The Vizier snaps off the comm. And allows himself a very private and evil smile.

INT. ICE PALACE- MONITOR ROOM

Graveheart is standing bewildered by the comm link. Cryos walks up to join him.

CRYOS
(132) I see the Vizier is as charming as ever.

GRAVEHEART
(133) No. It's more than that. Something's not right. I think we should contact Mantel and stop his returning the Fire people to their planet.

CRYOS
(134) But Mantle has cut off all communications and may I remind you that the Beast Armada is almost upon us?

The comm link snaps on. Its Tekla.

TEKLA
(135) Graveheart. I have to see you.

GRAVEHEART
(136) It'll have to wait, Tekla.

TEKLA

(137) It cannot. It is about that soil sample you gave me. Planet fire. Its not what it appears to be!

INT. HANGAR _ ROCK'S BATTLE MOON.

We see the loading of the Fire people loaded through transport tunnels back to Planet Fire. Pull back to reveal that we are seeing this as a hologram in the World Engine Room, with the Vizier. Mantel is present, too, as a hologram.

INT. FIRE - WORLD ENGINE ROOM

MANTEL
(138) The first transport ship is now leaving. All I can say is good riddance.

VIZIER
(139) Save your insults Rockhound. Soon we will all be rid of what disturbs us most.

Vizier slices at the hologram with his staff and gives a sinister look. Mantle seems confused.

INT. PLANET ICE - LAB

As Cryos and Graveheart watch, Tekla has two small piles of dirt spread on the table. Voxx hovers over them, SCANNING them with a BEAM.

VOXX
(140) Analysis complete. Data Transferred.

Voxx emits a series of whistles and clicks, binary communication that only Tekla can comprehend.

TEKLA
(141) Voxx has compared Graveheart's new soil sample to the old one Prince Pyrus saved from Planet Fire.

CRYOS
(142) And?

TEKLA
(143) Even allowing for decay due to traumatic cooling, there are discrepancies.

GRAVEHEART
(144) What are you saying?

TEKLA
(145) The new sample is not from Planet Fire.

CRYOS
(146) But, if that's not Planet Fire...what is it?_

Graveheart quickly turns to comm.link and speaks to Jade.

GRAVEHEART
(147) Jade. Ready a Bladewing. We have to get to Planet Fire before it's too late.___

_EXT. PLANET FIRE

Pyrus kneels on the ground picking up soil from old home. He is deep in thought.

VIZIER
(148) Is it all that you remember?

The Vizier standing behind him.

PYRUS
(149) I don't think the planet could ever be as I remembered.

VIZIER
(150) Surely you must find comfort in returning to your homeworld.

PYRUS
(151) If you asked me that before I saw this, I might have agreedÉ but nowÉ

VIZIER
(153) Pity. Because soon this planet will teem with life once moreÉ

Pull out, Vizier raises his arms over his head as Beast Ships strafe the sky above him.

VIZIER
(154) While we await the coming of the Beast.

PYRUS
(155) No.

The Vizier's eyes flame with frightening intensity.

EXT. SPACE- GRAVEHEART'S BLADEWING

The Bladewing is in a dogfight with some random Beast ships.

INT. BLADEWING

Graveheart and Jade at the controls.

GRAVEHEART
(156) This is taking too long. We'll never get to Pyrus in time.

JADE
(157) I've got a distress call. The Transports - They're under attack.

Cutaway to show the transport ships under attack by Beast ships.

GRAVEHEART
(159) Pyrus would want us to save his people...Turn back.

Just as GH is about to turn back, Cryos chimes in on the comm link.

CRYOS
(160) Continue your mission. Tekla and I can manage things from here.

Cutaway to show the Aurora rushing in to defend the transports.

GRAVEHEART
(161) Thanks Cryos, and good luck.

EXT. PLANET FIRE

Pyrus stands confused before his old friend.

PYRUS
(164) I don't understand. You have his thoughts, his memories but you're not the Vizier are you.

VIZIER
(165) The Beast Planet absorbs and learns from all it devours. This

planet and I are just a by-product of that process.

The Vizier stands dramatically.

VIZIER
(166) Is it not ironic? You tried to use this planet to destroy the Beast, and instead it becomes the instrument of your destruction.

He bangs his staff on the ground and a fissure opens up, running across the ground toward Pyrus.

Pyrus leaps aside as the earth opens up under him. In the depths of the pit, Null Matter can be seen.

VIZIER
(167) Where there was once Fire, now only null matter exists.

Vizier raises his staff once again.

VIZIER
(168) Victory for the Beast is assured.

Before he can strike the ground with the staff, the ground explodes around him. We cutaway to see Jade's ship swoop in and open fire on the Vizier. He is blown backward and his staff flies out of his hand. When the Vizier strikes the ground, the quakes increase in intensity. Another fissure opens, and cracks right towards the Vizier. He is helpless and falls into the pit. He quickly clutches on with one hand, his feet dangling above the null matter below. Pyrus is torn once again.

EXT. SPACE

The Aurora is joined by other Alliance ships in protecting the transports.A huge battle wages on as the ever present Beast Planet looms closer.

EXT. PLANET FIRE SURFACE

The Vizier holds on to the Fissures edge and makes one last ploy. Pyrus stands over top of him.

VIZIER
(171) Help me, my Prince. Surely you will not let your old friend perished.

PYRUS
(172) My old friend has already perished.

Pyrus turns away, the Vizier fall in screaming in anger.

VIZIER
(angry)
(173) Noooooooo!

When the Vizier makes contact with the Null matter at the bottom of the fissure the entire planet begins to quake. A giant blast shoots out of the fissure.

Pyrus staggers to his feet, only to see the planet falling in on its self.

PYRUS
(into comm link)
(174) Graveheart! This is Pyrus! I've got a situation here. Any ideas?

A cable drops in front of him.

GRAVEHEART (VO)
(175) Nowhere to go but up.

Pyrus looks up to see the cable hanging from Jade's ship. Pyrus grab on and is lifted up. In the background we can see Planet Fire being completely destroyed.

INT. AURORA

Cryos and Tekla divide their attention between the battle and the viewscreen. Pyrus sits, visibly shaken by the experience.

CRYOS
(176) Graveheart, Pyrus is safe?

Graveheart appears on the viewscreen.

GRAVEHEART (FILTERED)
(177) As safe as possible, considering. Brace yourselves. Planet Fire's coming apart at the seams.

EXT. FIRE/JADE'S BLADE WING

Jade's ship curves for the open sky. Behind them, the surface of the phony Planet Fire gets worse, tearing itself apart.

As Jades Blade Wing finally gets far enough away from the planet to be safe, Planet Fire blows itself apart.

The rippling shock waves from the explosion destroy the Beast ships as the harmonics pass through them. It ripples past the Beast Plant with no effects. The Alliance Fleet is buffeted but intact.

A moment later, the Rock Fleet turns back to the Battle-Moon. The Battle is ended -- for now.

INT. AURORA - SOON AFTER

Cryos turns to Tekla.

CRYOS
(178) Now can we please head for the Nebula, before something else happens?

INT. JADE'S BLADE WING

Graveheart shares a look with Pyrus.

GRAVEHEART
(179) You okay?

Pyrus nods.

PYRUS
(180) My people are safe and the Alliance endures.
(he pauses, then)
But I guess what's most importantÉ
(explaining)
Is that my memories remain. And they'll stay that, memories..

CLOSE ON PYRUS - We know the kid is going to be okay.

EXT. WIDE ON THE ALLIANCE FLOTILLA

As it arcs away into the temporary safety of the Nebula.

PYRUS (VO)
(182) It's time we stopped looking back and started moving on...to a better future!

FADE OUT.

END EPISODE